MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 NOVEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Protest to Iranians, Ba'labakk Situation -- Foreign Minister Elie Salim portested to the Iranian ambassador over the recent actions of armed Iranians in Ba'labakk and warned that Lebanon will break diplomatic relations with Iran unless the latter immediately withdraws its armed men from Lebanon, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. After his meeting with Salim, the Iranian ambassador nevertheless denied that Iranians were among those who recently attacked the government house in Ba'labakk, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the Syrians reinforced their positions in Ba'labakk, where the security situation was calm, the radio noted. The bodies of five Iranians were discovered in a nearby village, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Ash-Shuf Situation -- Eight bodies were found in a well in the Ash-Shuf township of 'Ayn Zhalta, Beirut radio reported. Radio Free Lebanon blamed the killings on Druze militia from Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party, asserting that the dead were among a number of Christians kidnapped from Kafr Nabrakh village about 2 weeks ago.

Israeli-Syrian Contacts -- Voice of Lebanon said it has learned from high-level diplomatic sources in Beirut that Israel and Syria have recently held secret contacts through Iranian businessmen in an attempt to achieve "a kind of coordination" over the situation in Lebanon.

MA'ARIV on Lebanon -- The assessment in Jerusalem is that the IDF will remain in Lebanon through and even beyond the winter in view of Syria's "rigid position" in the political negotiations over the evacuation of foreign forces, the Israeli daily MA'ARIV reported. A senior Israeli political source cited by the paper opined that President Amin al-Jumayyil is subject to Syrian influence and will follow the dictates of Damascus in the negotiations. In the same issue of MA'ARIV, a commentary expressed support for those Israeli Cabinet ministers who have proposed a unilateral IDF withdrawal to a security strip 40 km from the Israeli border.

PLO

'Arafat in Damascus -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus to preside over the PLO Central Council meeting scheduled to convene 25 November, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

PLO-Egyptian Talks -- PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad al-Yamani stated that the "so-called" Palestinian delegation which recently met in Cairo with the Egyptian foreign minister did not represent the PLO and was not commissioned by the PLO Executive Committee, SANA reported. The official strongly condemned any attempt to remove Egypt from its isolation, SANA added. A Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command spokesman also criticized the talks, another SANA report noted. A "responsible source" in Cairo termed the criticism of the talks by "a number" of Palestinian movements "charlatanism" and a reiteration of Syrian slogans that will not solve the Palestinian issue, MENA reported. PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir stated that Yasir 'Arafat will go to Egypt only when Cairo takes practical steps to distance itself from the Camp David policy, Voice of Lebanon radio revealed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algerian-Saudi Talks -- A joint statement issued at the end of Saudi King Fahd's talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid noted that the two leaders discussed

bilateral relations, Middle East issues and the situation in Africa, SPA reported. The talks were held in an atmosphere of "complete understanding" and "mutual confidence," the statement stressed. The Algerian foreign minister told SPA that the talks included a discussion of the Arab Maghreb, according to another SPA report.

King Fahd left Algeria on 23 November for a private visit to Morocco; he was accompanied by the Saudi ministers of foreign affairs, petroleum, labor and planning, MAP reported.

Tripartite Meeting -- A second summit meeting was held in Algiers consisting of President Bendjedid, King Fahd and PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat, APS reported. The PLO leader revealed that the summit dealt with a number of subjects "of extreme importance," including the Palestinian issue, Algiers radio reported.

OAPEC Meeting -- The oil ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries are meeting in Kuwait, KUNA reported.

GCC

The joint defense plan adopted by the recent GCC summit conference provides for the establishment of a massive air defense network financed by Saudi Arabia to cover the entire region, the Paris weekly AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI reported. The network will use the most advanced early warning devices and will be capable of protecting the oilfields and the Strait of Hormuz. The defense plan also aims at establishing joint training for the armies of the GCC states, the magazine added. The report also said the GCC leaders decided to continue supporting Iraq in its war with Iran; however, this support will not go beyond increasing material aid and obtaining or paying for arms supplies to the Iraqis.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- More than 1,300 Iranians were killed during clashes on the Maysan front, a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio stated that Iranian forces continued to consolidate and maintain their positions on various fronts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments -- Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told PASDAR-E ISLAM magazine that Iraq is in "big trouble" since Iran has recaptured most of the strategic border heights and that Iraq does not have the resources to defend itself on all the four main war fronts, IRNA reported. Iran cannot accept peace with Iraq until compensation is paid and it could take 10 years after a cease-fire is established for compensation to be settled, the Majlis speaker added.

Egypt

Noting Israeli media reports that Israel will not start negotiations on Tabah before Egypt returns its ambassador to Tel Aviv, President Husni Mubarak said in an interview with French television carried by MENA that the departure or recall of the ambassador is an act of Egyptian sovereignty and "we will accept no prior conditions under any circumstances."

Jordan

Security authorities believe that a fire which broke out at Al-Yarmuk University on 20 November was caused by a small explosive charge placed by a saboteur, Amman radio reported. Jerusalem radio's Arabic service claimed that Syria was behind the explosion and also said that Jordanian circles have expressed concern at recent Syrian reconnaissance overflights of Jordanian territory.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 227 *24 November 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

AFP: Guerrillas Rupture Soviet Oil Pipeline C 1
Religious, Political Figure 'Martyred' C 1

INDIA

Gandhi Views Mitterrand Visit, Foreign Ties [AFP] E 1
Report on Communique on Bangladesh Talks E 2
Akali Demonstrators Arrested in New Delhi E 4
Former Ministers Among 200 Sikhs Arrested E 4
Briefs: Financial Aid From France E 4

PAKISTAN

Romania's Ceausescu Makes Brief Stopover F 1
Zia Hosts Banquet F 1
Release of Ghaffar Khan Announced 20 Nov F 2
[DAWN 20 Nov]

IRAN

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Iraq in Big Trouble I 1
Khamene'i Discusses Elections, Iraqi Council I 2
'Farce of Sinking Oil Tankers' Scorned I 3
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,131 I 4
Iraqi Brigades Destroyed in 'Severe clash' I 5
NVOI: U.S. Aims To Separate Iran From Neighbors I 5

AFP: GUERRILLAS RUPTURE SOVIET OIL PIPELINE

BK231608 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 23 Nov 82

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 23 (AFP) -- Afghan guerrillas blew open a Soviet oil pipeline this month, disrupting Afghanistan's main fuel artery at two points, Western diplomatic sources here said today.

The resistance forces succeeded in rupturing the pipeline on both sides of the Hindu Kush mountains, first on November 4 and again on November 7, the sources said. Using land mines they first blew apart the line at Dashte Kalagia, in Afghanistan's northern Samangan Province, and three days later scored a hit near the Bagram Airbase outside Kabul. Citing travellers, the diplomats said Soviet troops watched helplessly as residents in the area rushed forth to fill buckets as fuel gushed from the broken line. A number of Soviet workers sent to repair the damage were said to have been killed by guerrilla-laid mines.

Diplomats here also reported an increase in guerrilla attacks in the Afghan capital where government alerts and frequent house-to-house searches had failed to stop their activity. They reported four Afghan military officers killed in broad daylight in Kabul earlier this month and said the bodies of five infantrymen were found in Kabul's central Shor bazaar. Guerrillas also rocketed a Kabul military high school, diplomats said, but gave no casualty figures.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting was reported in the Logar Province south of Kabul where the government launched a military offensive earlier this month, flying in a large number of troops. Diplomatic sources said a "large and unspecified number" of casualties occurred where Soviet helicopters bombed the province last Thursday in a retaliatory strike for the loss a day earlier of six helicopters, destroyed by guerrillas. They said the Soviets accidentally hit their own troops in the raid.

Western sources also gave accounts of destruction caused by bombings last summer in the town of Shomali north of Kabul. They said most of the population had fled the area for Kabul following massive bombing of crops and irrigation systems, leaving Shomali virtually deserted. Diplomats said the Soviet policy of free-fire zones had left nothing intact in Shomali where they described the effect of bombing as "indelible."

They also reported fighting between different rebel groups in the Istalif region north of Kabul. They said 40 guerrillas were killed during factional clashes which broke out on November 10.

RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL FIGURE 'MARTYRED'

LD221632 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Excerpts] With deep sorrow, we received the news that Ahmad Shah Masud, spiritual personality, member of the DRA Islamic Affairs Department, member of the High Council of Ulema and Clergy and member of the DRA National Fatherland Front, was martyred by a counterrevolutionary element on 20 November while praying in his home. Ahmad Shah Masud was the imam and preacher of the Sakhi Mosque in Jamal Mina and was a religious personality. The funeral of Ahmad Shah Masud took place yesterday. He was buried in Sakhi Shrine. His funeral was attended by the head of the DRA High council of Ulema and Clergy, deputy minister of tribal and nationalities affairs, a number of ulema and clergy and his relatives.

GANDHI VIEWS MITTERRAND VISIT, FOREIGN TIES

BK240231 Hong Kong AFP in English 0157 GMT 24 Nov 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 23 (AFP) -- Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today described the forthcoming trip of French President Francois Mitterrand to India, beginning Saturday, as a "good-will visit" and showered praises on the French policy of more cooperation with the developing world.

"We do not have any special outstanding problems with France, they view our problems with sympathy. We will try to find and enlarge areas where there can be cooperation." Mrs Gandhi told AFP in an interview here on the eve of President Mitterrand's visit which will run through November 30.

"The French realise there is tremendous and growing potential in India," Mrs Gandhi said.

On the French policy of increased cooperation with the Third World, Mrs Gandhi was all in praise for the present French Government. "President Mitterrand has spoken up in various conferences about global negotiations and helping the developing world", she said.

Replying to criticism that the French promise had been merely in words, Mrs Gandhi said: "We have the words at least. We do not even have words from other countries. This is at least the beginning", she said.

On the issue of France supplying enriched uranium to run the U.S.-aided Tarapur atomic power plant in the west coast, Mrs Gandhi said that since official level talks were underway, she would not comment. France has agreed to maintain fuel supply after the United States backed out.

"It is better that I do not say anything at this stage. Our own newspapers have been writing a lot of guess work and it has not helped us", she said.

On the Soviet policy after the death of President Leonid Brezhnev, Mrs Gandhi said "the policy of a country is governed by what they called national interest. The Soviets are anxious for peace because of their own economic problems and the memories of the wars are still very vivid and real to them."

Replying to a question if there was a change in New Delhi's policy after the Soviet armed presence in Afghanistan as manifested in India buying French arms and her visit to the United States, Mrs Gandhi denied that the Indian foreign policy was not balanced before.

"The Soviet Union had been a good friend to us. They stood by us when we wanted to build our industries after we were first refused by the United States and West Germany," she said.

She had met all but two American presidents during her decade-old rule and it was not proper to say that her foreign policy was imbalanced, she added.

She defended her invitation to the new chief of the Soviet Communist Party Yuriy Andropov to visit India saying that she had invited him as successor of Mr Brezhnev.

On Afghanistan, Mrs Gandhi said the all around condemnation of the Soviet Union had not helped solve the Afghan issue. She was defending her government's policy of abstaining from condemning Moscow on Afghanistan.

"Condemnation can never be successful. Now there is no question of persuasion succeeding in making the Soviets withdraw. They (Soviets) are anxious not to stay in Afghanistan. They have plenty of difficulties of their own, but they have to stay while the Afghan Government wants", she said.

She denied that Soviet presence in Afghanistan was a destabilishing factor for the region and India's sphere of influence. However, she said Pakistan was taking advantage of the Afghan issue. "It gives them a very good excuse for acquiring arms," she said. She said India had been seeking normalization of relations with Pakistan. "Let us wait and see", she added.

On the Non-aligned Movement, which she will head after the scheduled New Delhi summit in March next year, Mrs Gandhi said although there were differences, the movement had emerged stronger.

On the alleged pro-Soviet tilt of the 9-member movement, Mrs Gandhi denied that the movement had tilted towards Moscow during Cuban President Castro's chairmanship. "There is pressure from both sides (Soviet and Western) and they have increased in recent times," she said.

On domestic issue which has lately climaxed in Sikh demands for autonomy for Punjab and emergence of regionalism in other parts, Mrs Gandhi said it was natural in a democratic and vast country like India to have "small explosions." But it is not true to say that the whole of Punjab is not satisfied. It is only a political party which wants to come to power," she said, referring to the Sikh party Akali Dal, which is spearheading the present Sikh stir for autonomy.

Commenting on her rebel daughter-in-law Maneka Gandhi, who is likely to form a new political party early next year, she said "she has never been political but it seems that she is becoming ambitious".

Mrs Gandhi, who turned 66 last Friday, said that her "very strong sense of duty allows her no time to be tired. The work is too exciting, too challanging and too exacting".

She said she would like to see her only surviving son Rajiv Gandhi doing a "good work for the country, but whether he takes over or not after me should be decided by the party and the nation".

REPORT ON COMMUNIQUE ON BANGLADESH TALKS

Bk181603 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1527 GMT 18 Nov 82

[Text] The first meeting of the Indo-Bangla joint commission "injected a fresh impetus and new directions to the existing friendly relations and economic cooperation between the two countries" a joint statement said on 18 November. The statement, issued at the end of the 3-day visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R.S. Doha said the commission reviewed existing trade relations and identified measures to be taken on a priority basis to expand trade and reduce the trade imbalance.

The statement said India would send a team of experts to Bangladesh early to formulate a medium term plan for cooperation.

The commission decided to hold its second meeting at Dhaka during the first half of 1983.

Regarding transit railway facilities for the transport of Indian goods through Bangladesh territory, it was decided that representatives of the respective Railway Ministries would meet by the end of January 1983 to make firm recommendations for joint commission consideration at its next meeting.

The commission constituted four new committees headed by senior officials of the two countries on economic and financial matters, trade and commerce, industries and science and technology, the statement said, to ensure effective functioning of existing and new bodies and to follow up commission work.

The standing committee headed by the secretary of the Indian External Affairs Ministry and the secretary of the Bangladesh External Resources Division of Finance had been set up. It would meet not less than twice a year.

Referring to the creation of better infrastructural support between the two countries, the statement noted that the draft agreement on the regulation of motor vehicular traffic now under consideration would be finalised soon.

Both sides reemphasised their sincere desire to expand trade, improve economic and technical cooperation in the best spirit of bilateral, regional and international cooperation. In this connection they reaffirmed their commitment to the concept of ECDC and TCDC and expressed satisfaction over the progress already achieved in launching South Asian regional cooperation.

Both sides agreed that government-level consulations now under way regarding the marketing of jute goods abroad by India and Bangladesh were advantageous and should be continued.

To promote the establishment of industrial and infrastructure projects in Bangladesh India would provide government-to-government credit of rupees 200 million which will be used for the import of Indian capital goods and equipment. India would also provide credit of rupees 400 million from the export-import -- Exim -- bank to finance the import of Indian capital goods and equipment for projects in both public and private sectors.

India agreed to procure 50,000 tonnes of urea and 20,000 tonnes of newsprint annually from Bangladesh for next 3 years. India will also purchase 20,000 tonnes of bitumen next year. In addition, India would explore the possibility of import of Jamdani sarees and with blue leather, pulp, paper, viscose, yarn and timber from Bangladesh.

India expressed its willingness to continue exports of 100,000 tonnes of high grade steam coal annually and offered to supply 300,000-500,000 tonnes of special low volatile coal to Bangladesh.

Both sides agreed to set up joint ventures and the range of industrial projects discussed included sponge iron and steel, cement, concrete sleepers, modernisation of railway workship, manufacture of coaches and wagons, textiles, machinery and spares in the Bangladesh machines tool factory as well as modernisation of four sugar mills.

Feasibility studies for new projects would be undertaken by India. India also agreed to extend its fullest cooperation in the field of small scale industries.

To give a boost to their bilateral trade they agreed to further improve telecommunications, railways, roads, shipping and waterways links between the two countries.

It was also agreed to expand collaboration in banking and insurance, grant tariff concessions and settle payments through the Asian clearing union.

It was decided that telegraph and telephone circuits would be increased by about 100 percent on a priority basis. The microwave link between Bombay and Dhaka would be established and expanded.

A decision was also taken to increase the flow of information between the two countries.

It was felt that contacts among state trading organisations and visits by representatives of government-recognised chambers of commerce and industry should be promoted.

They agreed to evolve financing arrangements to ensure the viability of joint venture projects. In this connection the possibility of obtaining funds from third country and multilateral sources would also be explored.

They expressed satisfaction at the signing of a scientific and technical cooperation agreement.

AKALI DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED IN NEW DELHI

BK231629 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1515 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] In New Delhi, 57 Akali demonstrators were arrested today. Orders were given to keep them under detention for 15 days for violating the prohibitory orders.

FORMER MINISTERS AMONG 200 SIKHS ARRESTED

BK240904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] In Punjab, Akali legislator and former Education Minister Sukhjinder Singh was arrested yesterday along with about 200 agitators when they were going to board buses for reaching Delhi to hold demonstrations. Another Akali legislator and former finance minister, Balwant Singh, was arrested by the Chandigarh police yesterday for apprehension of breach of peace.

BRIEFS

FINANCIAL AID FROM FRANCE -- India is to get immediately financial assistance of over 700 million rupees from France. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi yesterday. This is part of the financial assistance of 1 billion francs to India for 1982-83. The credit will be utilized for industrial projects and consultancy and for the purchase of light equipment and other commodities. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Nov 82 BK]

ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU MAKES BRIEF STOPOVER

BK211550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq this evening received Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The Romanian president made a brief stopover in Karachi. Both leaders warmly shook hands and then the president introduced the Sind governor, federal and provincial ministers, members of the advisory council and senior officials to the Romanian president. Two small children presented bouquets to the Romanian president and a large number of schoolchildren present on the occasion showered flower petals on the distinguished guests. Both leaders rode from the airport to the governor's house where President Mohammad Ziaul Haq hosted a banquet in honor of the Romanian president.

Zia Hosts Banquet

BK221222 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that mutual concern and convergence in the respective positions of Pakistan and Romania on many international issues have served to strengthen our bilateral relations in the larger interest of peace and security in the world.

He made this statement while addressing a banquet in honor of Romanian President Ceausescu in Karachi last night. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the fact that Pakistan and Romania to a large extent hold identical views on basic issues of interstate relations testifies to the friendship of the two countries.

The president said: It has been a matter of grave concern for us that the principle of noninterference has been violated in our closest neighboring country, Afghanistan, resulting in unlimited misery to the (?common) people of that country. [passage indistinct] He said: We sincerely desire an early end to this tragedy; we are participating with utmost sincerity in the indirect talks held through the UN secretary general's representative on Afghanistan, which is aimed at a comprehensive settlement of the issue in accordance with UN General Assembly resolutions.

The president said that the (?world) has expressed deep anguish and grief over Israel's brutal aggression against Lebanon and the continued sufferings of the Palestinian people. He said: All countries, particularly the big powers, who hold considerable influence and weight, should fulfill their responsibilities in connection with ending the Israeli expansionism and aggression.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq reiterated that Pakistan extends full support to the Fes resolutions of the Arab summit. He said: We also recognize the positive aspects of President Reagan's peace plan. However, we understand that the establishment of a durable peace in the Middle East calls for a comprehensive settlement based on the restoration of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The president referred to his visit to Romania earlier this year and to his exchanges of views on bilateral relations and several other international issues. He said the meeting of the Pakistan-Romania intergovernmental commission in Islamabad this month has strengthened further the mutually beneficial economic relations and has provided a new impetus to continue our joint efforts. He said: Although President Ceausescu's visit is a very short one, it has, however, provided an opportunity for us to renew our existing friendly and cordial relations and to express the determination to strengthen them further.

In reply, President Ceausescu said Pakistan and Romania are both determined to attain their social and economic progress and cooperation between them is of great significance. He said Romania attaches special importance to the development of relations with Pakistan and the Pakistan president's visit to Romania this year and his talks assume great importance in the future development of these relations. On the international level also, the close cooperation between the two countries is on the rise.

President Ceausescu said Romania favors solving issues between countries only through negotiations. Romania holds this point of view on various issues, including the Afghanistan issue. He said the Afghanistan issue should be solved in a way that ensures independence and sovereignty for Afghanistan and creates the means for Afghanistan's economic and social progress, in accordance with the desires of the Afghan people.

On the Middle East situation, the Romanian president agreed with the views of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq that Israel's aggressive acts in Lebanon have created a situation of grave concern. He demanded the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and a comprehensive peace in the region. He said Romania supports convening an international conference in connection with the solution of the Middle East issue and the formation of an independent Palestinian state to be attended by all parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

President Ceausescu expressed the hope that the important decisions made by the Pakistan-Romania intergovernmental commission will create new areas for further promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

President Ceausescu, during his brief stay in Karachi prior to his departure for Indonesia, had talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The president saw him off at the airport.

RELEASE OF GHAFFAR KHAN ANNOUNCED 20 NOV

GF231154 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, Nov 19 (PPI) -- Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the red shirt leader, has been set free from his house arrest, an official announcement said here today.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who had been put under house arrest last month for his allegedly involving himself in political activities by addressing public meetings, was later taken to Lady Reading Hospital for medical check-ups and treatment of his rheumatic pains.

Ever since his shifting to the hospital the Pukhtoon leader enjoyed full liberty of meeting people coming to see him from all corners of the province. He had full liberty to talk to the newsmen and give his opinion on the political matters.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has said that he made clear to the concerned administration officials who called on him today to inform him about the decision of setting him free that being a Khudai Khidmatgar he was determined to serve the people till his last breath and would never give his mission up at any cost.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI: IRAQ IN BIG TROUBLE

LD232348 Tehran IRNA in English 1928 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 23 IRNA -- In an extensive analysis of the Iraqi imposed war and the (?present) state of the two countries, Majlis Speaker Akbar val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iraq also (?had a) greedy eye on strategic border heights between the two countries.

In an article published in the latest issue of the monthly magazine "PASDAR-E ISLAM", Rafsanjani said that the Iraqis had made a strategically correct analysis when they decided to retreat from the positions inside Iranian border territory and position (?themselves) on the important Iranian border heights, places where they could defend themselves. He said that now with the recapture of most of these heights from the Iraqis following the two latest offensives of the Islamic forces, Iraq was in big trouble.

During the first Operation Muslim ibn 'Aqil, which started on October first, the Majlis speaker said that the Islamic forces were only less than 1 [word indistinct] from [word indistinct] when the Islamic combatants advance 50 kms in a straight line. Baghdad can no longer defend itself because a capital cannot possibly [word indistinct] when it is within artillery range."

Operation Moharram, begun November first, resulted in the gain of more Iranian heights and the Islamic forces advanced some 10 to 30 kms into Iraqi territory. [Words indistinct] been put into a bad situation, he added, since it had to defend a vast valley with the Iranian forces on top of the heights. Rafsanjani [words indistinct] a border for Iraq to defend itself in this area it needed several well equipped divisions in the [words indistinct] areas, in Iraq's Nissan Province.

The representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defence Council said that Iraq was therefore faced with four fronts, around Khanaqin, around Mandali, around Ali Gharbi and Al-Amarah and around Basra. He said that (?it cannot) have the personnel or the facilities to [word indistinct] troops needed to defend these fronts all at the same time." [Words indistinct] severely vulnerable," he said.

Rafsanjani commented that there was no way that the Islamic Republic of Iran could make peace at a time when Iraq had (?not) paid compensation for its damages and destructions. He said that if a cease-fire was established, settlement (?could) take as much as ten years, and moreover, Iraq would become a rallying point for the enemies of the Islamic (?revolution).

"In such a circumstance they would blackmail us and stand against us and on the other hand we will not obtain our rights from Iraq and our revolution would be in danger."

Further commenting on the consequences of a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, Rafsanjani said that Iran would then have to be always in a state of alert to keep up its military strength, and basically it would be forced to stay away from developmental activities. "Also [words indistinct] would disappear since in this situation they would not feel threatened, as they do now, then [words indistinct] the war effort will have to continue until we become certain that we would obtain our rights."

However, he said that Iran's insistance on gaining its demands from Iraq had created a situation under (?which it could) not speak of anything but a conditional peace. On the other hand he said that Iraq had the propaganda media in its control and it was difficult for Iran to make the deprived people of the world know about the innocence of the Islamic forces.

He added that at the present time Iran needed to invest in its ability to prove its righteousness and innocence. In the meantime he said that it was apparent that Iran had to get its word through by its strength because today's (?world) is an ugly world, without anyone speaking the truth. If they did speak of truth they could easily understand our positions.

From the economic point of view, Rafsanjani said that Iran was in a much better condition to continue the war while Iraq was having trouble convincing the reactionary Arab countries to hand over more loans. He said that these countries were seeing that their enmities toward the Islamic Republic of Iran would not be left unanswered. He also praised Syria's pressure being exerted on Iraq.

In conclusion Rafsanjani said that it must [word indistinct] its propaganda problems since it could not shout the slogan of peace when it had no other choice but to continue the war until Saddam's overthrow.

KHAMENE'I DISCUSSES ELECTIONS, IRAQI COUNCIL

LD231838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Excerpts] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who went to Esfahan yesterday to take part in the memorial meeting honoring a number of Esfahan martyrs, granted an exclusive interview to the correspondent of the Central News Unit from Esfahan. He explained his views on the election of the Council of Experts and on the formation of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

The question was asked: What are your views on the elections to the Council of Experts and the Islamic Consultative Assembly?

Khamene'i answered: The elections to the Islamic Consultative Assembly are very clear. They are mid-term elections. The Council of Experts is one of the most basic organizations in our Constitution and it should always exist in society. Of course, the existence of this organization does not mean that it should always have special duties. The duties of the Council of Experts belong to a special time and occasion which has been specified in the Constitution. For a long time, there was talk about electing this organization but it was postponed. However, the Interior Ministry and the Council of Guardians, who are responsible for these elections, have now taken the initiative and, God willing, this council will be formed.

The best definition and the most complete description of the Council of Experts were given by our esteemed imam. The Council of Experts will strengthen the leadership and its formation will bring an organization into being that has been foreseen in the Constitution and that will be acting according to the Constitution. The people will feel secure in that the experts of the nation have been elected and are ready to serve and to work. Of course, the enthusiasm shown by the people and the candidates has been very good. We foresee that, in these elections, as in past elections, the people actively will participate and many ballots will be cast. God willing, the Council of Experts will achieve its dignity and authority as the result of the decisive vote of these people.

Concerning the situation in the battlefields after the victorious Moharram operations, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The situation of our forces each day is better than the day before. The commanders of our fighting forces, both the armed forces and the Guards Corps, wanted a number of recuits. They asked the people to help them and the people responded with even much more than they needed and left for the fronts. Our commanders have no difficulty concerning human resources.

The situation of our forces in the fronts is very good. In the Moharram operational zone, our fronts are consolidated and the enemy has no chance to make any movement harmful to our forces. Thanks to God, the situation in our fronts is very good both from the viewpoint of human resources, from the viewpoint of morale and the desire for fighting and from the viewpoint of equipment.

Concerning the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the president said: This council is a popular move by our Iraqi Muslim brothers. As you know, according to the announcement of the council itself, it is formed of both clergy and nonclergy brothers, of Shi'ite and Sunni. According to their statement, their intention is to start their great and grassroot movement against the usurping regime in Iraq, to mobilize the people against it and to continue their struggle until the downfall of the present usurping regime and the establishment of a popular and Islamic order. This is a blessed move. As the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have not interfered in any way in this movement. This concerns the Iraqis themselves. It is natural that we welcome such a movement. We take it as a good omen and, if they ask our views, we will encourage them to continue this movement.

Concerning the degree of the success of this council, Khamene'i said: I am very hopeful about its success because successful movements are based on two basics: One is to have a deep, well-founded and divine ideology and, second, the support of the masses of the people. This council can enjoy both these conditions. If those individuals busy working within this council increase their reliance upon Islam and the people and if they continue on this path, we have no doubt that their movement will be successful. Even at the moment we can see signs of a popular movement in Iraq.

'FARCE OF SINKING OIL TANKERS' SCORNED

GF231939 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The farce of the sinking of oil tankers in Khark is repeated with every heavy blow that breaks the Iraqi rulers' backs. It is not the first time the world has heard such a farce. The lost and defeated regime has harped on this tune several times, but to no avail. All the regime's attempts have failed to extinguish the great battles waged by the Islamic forces with rare valor -- battles in which the enemy was like a terrified mouse looking for a hole that would save it from death and protect it from swords and arrows.

It is truly a farce to be added to the series of farces on which the aggressors of Baghdad have embarked -- aggressors who have replaced reality with illusion and turned the battle for which they had prepared themselves into an ignoble defeat, not only for the rulers of Iraq, but also for the agent Ba'th Party and for all hirelings who have allowed themselves to be led by conspiring imperialists.

Among the many farces in which the vile Iraqi regime indulges is its flimsy claim every now and then of sinking oil tankers or merchant ships so as to divert attention away from the deep wounds it sustained in its losing battles with the Islamic Republic of Iran -- battles that are the tax which the regime is compelled to pay for its treacherous aggression against an innocent people without any prior warning or justification other than implementing the orders of the White House.

While the world hears the reports of the resounding defeats inflicted on the Iraqi rulers on all battlefronts, the Iraqi rulers try to demonstrate their bravery in other fields.

We wish they had done something to regain their dignity -- if they have any. The only thing in which the Iraqi rulers excel is lying, and only lying. When their tanks and artillery fail to face the Islamic advance, they replace all their weapons with this cheap weapon -- cheap because it is possessed by any vile and trivial person: the weapon of lies. It is a short-lived weapon doomed to failure.

With the boisterous clamor of war, we hear meek and weak voices broadcast by Saddam's media and trumpeted by imperialist radios. We hear of illusory courage and we hear of a tiger -- but it is a paper tiger. In the honorable battles of Ramadan, when our valiant heroes forged epic-making history and when the Saddam regime was soundly defeated, the vanquished fabricated the farce of sinking merchant ships and oil tankers so as to cover up for its enormous losses. Ever since then, that regime has been resorting to the same tactic.

Now, having been dealt successive blows on the Al-'Amarah and Mandali fronts, it resorted to the same old lifeline. However, the Iraqi regime did not think that this is a short lifeline that will not take it to the shore of safety because lies are not a durable life-preserver -- lies make their perpetrators falsely believe that they have saved them from one imbroglio, only to put them in another.

Gentlemen, this is what Saddam and his regime are like: Every day they are in an imbroglio; no sooner do they manage to find a way out of one imbroglio than they find themselves in another. Saddam, who has demonstrated to the world that [words indistinct] such lies to depict himself to the world as a man of strategy who knows where to strike and how to enter a battle. He opts for the economic battle instead of waging other battles. This is what this idiot wanted to delude himself, and the world, into believing. He did not pause to ask himself: What is the use of an economic battle when he is daily sacrificing hundreds of dead at the altar of his lusts and rancor? What is the use of lies when his forces constantly are retreating on his fragmented and disoriented front? What is the use of the radios that support him and trumpet for him in the war that he is unable to wage despite all the assistance he has received?

This illusion will kill Saddam sooner or later. That he should hold on to this illusion is a great possibility, but that he should live on this illusion forever is an impossibility. Tyrants have resorted to all the weapons that their successor, Saddam Husayn, is now using. They resorted to these weapons and they had more intelligence and greater eloquence than Saddam. However, the result of all their experiences has demonstrated the failure of (?vile) methods to maintain their domination over peoples.

Let Saddam learn from the experiences of those who preceded him, whether in the contemporary age or in bygone times. Let him not repeat the records of Hitler, Stalin and other tyrants who established their power on these pillars: lies, lies, and lies.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,131

LD231732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,131 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. By offering our best greetings on the glorious birthday of the seventh bright star of Velayat and Imamat His Great Eminence Imam Kusa Kazem, may peace be upon him, we are bringing the situation on the battlefronts of the imposed war to the attention of the Muslim and grateful umma' of Iran.

During the past 24 hours, the combatants of Islam on the southern fronts further consolidated their defensive positions and prevented the Saddamist mercenaries from carrying out any aggression or operations. The combatants of Islam, maintaining their superior firepower against the Saddamist infidel forces, opened timely fire on the positions and units of the Iraqi invading forces and inflicted blows on them

At various times yesterday morning, the disintegrating Saddamist mercenaries launched three desperate attacks. The victorious and proud combatants of Islam smashed the enemy attacks, repulsed their operations and inflicted considerable losses and damages on the Saddamist aggressors. During these operations, the Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses and casualties in every attack and were forced to retreat.

The brave warriors of the gendarmerie on the Abadan fronts returned the enemy fire and pounded their positions and fortifications on the other side of the Arvand Rud, killing or wounding a number of the Saddamist mercenary troops and inflicting damage on their trenches and bunkers.

During the exchange of fire on the Western fronts, the combatants of Islam inflicted loss and damages on the Saddamist forces and silenced their fire. The exchange of fire was more intense on the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational fronts.

Thanks to the artillery and heavy weapons fire of the warriors of Islam on the Marivan front against the enemy positions in the Tutman and Panjwin sectors, several enemy mortars and bunkers were destroyed and a number of Saddamist troops were killed. Also in the same sector, the continuous artillery fire by the ground forces combatants on several Iraqi garrisons inflicted heavy losses and damage on the Iraqi forces stationed in these garrisons.

One enemy ammunition depot was set ablaze on the Paveh front.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI BRIGADES DESTROYED IN 'SEVERE CLASH'

LD241100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] According to reports received from Qareh Bolgh base, the center of joint armed forces and guards operations, the feeble enemy yesterday staged an offensive against the brave forces of Islam, but was confronted by the bravery of our pagan-fighting epic-makers and fled.

During this severe clash, 80 percent of three brigades of the Ba'thist, Zionist regime of Iraq was destroyed. Three enemy commando units also were routed by the combatants of Islam. Enemy losses during this class exceeded 600. The bodies of the dead Zionists are scattered on the battlefield.

Also during this operation, a number of enemy tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles, arms and ammunition were destroyed.

NVOI: U.S. AIMS TO SEPARATE IRAN FROM NEIGHBORS

TA221126 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 21 November carries a commentary entitled: "America Is Creating a Quarantine Around Iran." It says: America intends to separate Iran from its neighboring countries. In connection with this U.S. policy, during recent months, it has devoted special attention to the Indian Ocean region and particularly to the Persian Gulf region.

Many of the Pentagon's high-ranking military officials have visited these areas. The U.S. secretary of defense recently visited the eastern part of this region. Up to that time, his deputy, Frank Carlucci, had visited some of the region's countries.

What do these gentlemen want from the Indian Ocean region, especially its northwestern part, and the Persian Gulf? The unprecedented attention of the Reagan administration's high-ranking officials to these regions is because U.S. imperialism intends to revive its military and strategic positions following the revolution's victory in our homeland and the disintegration of CENTO. All of us are aware that the Reagan administration loves the formation of alliances more than its predecessors. The Reagan military clique is striving to form another military agreement by the name of strategic alliance with the participation of some of Iran's neighboring countries. In Mr Carlucci's view, this alliance should take the form of a quarantine that will envelope Iran from the south, east and west.

The foundation has been laid for the setting up of this alliance. About 1 and 1/2 years ago, as a result of the frantic activity of the current U.S. Government, Saudi Arabia took the initiative in organizing a so-called cooperation council among the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf with the participation of Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and Oman.

In Washington, they view this organization of Arab feudalists as a first step toward the establishment of an anti-Iranian front in the south. Numerous indications prove this claim. For example, during all last year, America sold substantial amounts of military hardware to Saudi Arabia. Moreover, as you are aware, since last year, the U.S. Corps of Engineering has been engaged in carrying out extensive programs in connection with military facilities on Saudi Arabian soil at a cost of $21 billion.

The United States aims to impose the sale of its weapons on other countries of the so-called Arab cooperation council. For example, it is forecast that the Northrop Corporation will start the sale of its F-5 aircraft to Bahrain. In the U.S. plans, Bahrain is one of the strategic areas for the stationing of the Rapid Deployment Forces. Moreover, the possibility of the sale of F-16 aircraft not only to Bahrain but to Oman also is under review by the Pentagon.

The Reagan administration intends to involve our neighboring countries, that is Turkey and Pakistan, in its anti-Iranian alliance. Specifically, the Pentagon is striving to impose on the Turkish Government the signing of an agreement pertaining to the construction of several U.S. military bases in the northeastern part of Turkey and in the vicinity of its borders with the Islamic Republic.

The Americans frantically are engaged in selling military hardware to Pakistan. In Washington, the prevailing opinion is that one can use Pakistan against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus, U.S. ruling circles want by the threat of direct intervention in our homeland's internal affairs to revive their lost positions and to bring to power in our country a system compatible with their plundering interests. Undoubtedly, the united struggle of all our homeland's true and revolutionary forces will foil this treacherous U.S. plan.